



VETEX Mint Gardens
garden installation
Secret Gardens
Kortrijk (B), 2009

Twenty-five experimental, yet archetypical gardens on the site of a former textile dying factory. Twenty-five mint varieties are cultivated among the unkempt ruderal vegetation. The mint is a traditional, yet international plant, easily recognized for its characteristic smell. This charismatic plant enchants everyone to discover a strange temporary garden culture, where things are always under construction. The installation is an archaeology and a projection of urban space. It cultivates plants and space. The opening of the wooden fences to the adjacent streets allows free access to the site and makes it possible to visit the gardens or cut across even on a normal walk through town. In the field scaffolding rods serve as plant labels and mark the gardens. In the centre of the site a roughly built station forms a platform in the field. Sticking out from the high grasses and tall forbs, it ascends an existing rubble mound from where we can survey the site. Around, large, mint-green packing bags offer contemporary pastoral pleasure. We can take a rest, observe, and maybe someone will serve a *thé à la menthe*.

